

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL  
HAND

**HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Michael Hand before the United States House of Representatives in recognition of his retirement as Assistant Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC). Mr. Hand, a Philadelphia native, has led a remarkable career defined by his ardent and diligent service to union members nationwide.

Originally from the River Ward section of Philadelphia, commonly called the Flat Iron, Mr. Hand earned his start in the labor community as member of Local Union 1050, serving on its Executive Board in numerous capacities for nearly 30 years. Prior to being appointed to his leadership role at the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, Mr. Hand served as one of the EASRCC's Senior Area Managers, expertly assisting the organization and its 40,000 members in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and 10 North Carolina counties.

Throughout his accomplished and lengthy career as a skilled carpenter, Mr. Hand was involved in construction projects at some of Philadelphia's most well-known institutions, including at the University of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia International Airport, Luken Steel, the Philadelphia Convention Center, and Liberty II, among others.

While Mr. Hand no longer resides in Philadelphia, he continues to selflessly give back to our community through his involvement with the "Carpenters Who Care" program, that helps carpenters struggling with addiction, and through his volunteer work with the Center of Support for Children's Advocates and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals (SPCA).

I wish Mr. Hand and his family the best in their future endeavors. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Michael Hand for his extraordinary contributions to our society.

HONORING SADIE DELICATH AND  
HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, February is Black History month. This month, and every month, let us celebrate the Black Americans who built this nation, amplify the voices of those who continue to fight for a more just society, and recommit to taking real action. We must remember that Black History is American History as we reflect on the people who have strengthened our nation.

This past year, the fight for racial justice was especially important in wake of unspeakable tragedies like the murders of George

Floyd and Breonna Taylor. People of all ages protested from coast to coast, calling for justice, saying enough is enough, and demanding change. I was particularly inspired by a group of young students led by Social Studies Teacher Nicole Clark, English Language Arts Teacher Monica Powell, and Inclusion Specialist Courtney Legg at Two Rivers Public Charter School in Washington, D.C.—where my granddaughter Sadie Delicath attends. During their recent school showcase they presented their "resistance poems" which I have shared with my colleagues in an e-booklet and posted to my website at:

<https://delauro.house.gov/sites/delauro.house.gov/files/documents/TwoRiversPoems.pdf>.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." During these unprecedented times, where we are also struggling to combat a pandemic that is disproportionately affecting communities of color, we must have the courage to make meaningful change. It is clear that the young authors of these poems certainly have that courage. I was particularly inspired by their words, and I am confident that my colleagues in the Congress were as well.

It is through their dedication and commitment of young people—and that of so many others before them—we are able to continue this fight for equality, justice and opportunity today and for many years to come.

I would like to share the poem written by my granddaughter Sadie. I am inspired by her every day:

CHANGE NEEDS TO COME

(By Sadie Delicath)

Do you know what it's like to be a Black person in America?

'Cause I don't.

I don't look at the tv and see another brother, mother, daughter, or father hanging from a tree or getting shot in her sleep wondering if next time it will be me.

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

When I see a cop car there are no butterflies dancing in my stomach or the sinking feeling something bad is going to happen.

Is that how everyone feels, or just me?

Do you know what it's like to be a white person in America? 'Cause I do.

Having privilege because of the color of my skin, being protected by something I'm born in.

History is a broken record, skips a couple of times, but always repeats itself.

Our laws and our norms always find a way to keep racism around.

Slavery led to Jim Crow and Jim Crow to police brutality

We have the power to put an end to this pain, but Black people are silenced as if by thunderous rain.

Denouncing racism is not enough, a black square is not enough, do you really care or is it just a bluff?

Black Lives Matter is not a trend, we have to put racism to an end.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC  
BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Public Buildings Renewal Act of 2021. This legislation will spur private investment in public building infrastructure throughout the United States by creating \$5 billion in Private Activity Bonds for the development of government-owned public buildings. Critically, this legislation intends that these bonds are compliant with Davis-Bacon labor standards.

In every American community, there are serious concerns about the condition of our schools, public hospitals, justice facilities, universities, and libraries. With state and local budgets becoming increasingly strained, officials have chosen to save money by steadily reducing capital investment in public buildings. But years of underinvestment have led to facilities that are inadequately maintained, fail to comply with current codes or disability requirements, and do not have adequate security—endangering the public. Throughout the country, the average public school building is at least 40 years old, and the current backlog of maintenance and repair projects adds up to more than \$45 billion annually in unmet funding needs. It is past time that we upgrade our public buildings to provide a safe, modern, and efficient experience from coast to coast.

Presently, the use of public-private partnerships to develop government owned public buildings is restricted because, unlike transportation projects, public buildings are not currently eligible for Private Activity Bonds. This unnecessary impediment prevents public building from combining tax-exempt financing with private, taxable financing, resulting in lower project costs for our state and local governments. The Public Buildings Renewal Act adds public buildings as a new class of projects eligible for financing with Private Activity Bonds, allowing state and local governments to invest in public building infrastructure projects more easily. Once enacted, state and local governments would be able to enter long-term contracts with a private sector company to design, build, finance, and/or operate and maintain the building for a defined period. This legislation is intended to provide an additional financing option to state and local governments looking to improve their public buildings, not be a panacea for all projects.

We can no longer accept schools and hospitals in disrepair, deferred maintenance, and delayed capital investment. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an infrastructure investment package.

HONORING STEPHEN M.  
CULPOVICH'S SERVICE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today we honor Stephen M. Culpovich, who is retiring

after serving Maine communities as a Postmaster for three decades.

Steve has dedicated his career to public service, serving in the U.S. Air Force before working twenty-two years as a Postmaster in Round Pond, then eight years in Rockport. As a public servant, Steve continuously went above and beyond, greeting each customer with a smile and good cheer.

Steve's retirement today is all the more remarkable because he originally intended to retire in March 2020. But as the world fell into chaos due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Steve made the courageous decision to stay on the job. Even though it meant working long days, a daily two-hour round-trip commute, and risking his safety, Steve refused to abandon his community during the most uncertain days of the pandemic.

It is because of people like Steve that Maine has a reputation for being "the way life should be." Our state is a much better place because of his vital work and his ability to form deep and trusting relationships with the people of Midcoast Maine. As he moves onto his next adventure, I wish him all the best.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, as we mark Black History Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his contributions to our nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize an American civil rights activist and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act before The Champ's death in 2016, at the age 74, so I ask my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, AZ and helped raise over \$50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many acco-

lades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservedly known as "the Greatest."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation.

#### CONGRATULATING MR. ROBBIN KUDER FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AS A MINISTER AT NORTHWOODS CHURCH

#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Pastor Robbin Kuder, and his wife Gail for their lifelong commitment to service in their community. This month, Pastor Kuder will retire after nearly a half-century of faithfully ministering to the residents of Tallahassee, Florida. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his and his wife Gail's service to Floridians, including the Central Florida community.

Raised in Orlando, the son of a minister, Robbin's commitment to service began in 1971 when he joined the United States Navy, where he served as an Operation Specialist. Following his graduation from FSU School of Music Education, Robbin began serving as worship leader and minister at Northwoods Church. He has served here for 45 years, including 16 years as youth minister.

I first met Robbin as we were young men attending First Baptist Church of Pine Hills, Florida where Robbin's dad Roger, served as music minister. As a newly elected member of the Florida Legislature, while in Tallahassee, I attended then University Heights Baptist Church where Robbin served.

A man of quiet leadership, immense patience and quiet sense of humor, Robbin has devoted his life to sharing his passion for music and the love of Christ with people. When not at church, Robbin could be found cycling, sailing, hunting or fishing—usually joined by his beloved wife Gail, one of his seven children or 16 grandchildren. His adventurous spirit and patience are evident in the numerous cross-state cycling trips he organized and led to give Florida youths an outlet for both athletics and adventure, while blessing churches with musical performances and service projects throughout the trip. Robbin and Gail are excellent examples for adults, parents, and young people for how to live a life of ministry.

It is a privilege to congratulate and applaud Robbin and Gail for a lifetime service that has spanned 5 decades. May their character, life, and efforts inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

#### RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST WINNER TOBI OJO

#### HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 26, 2021*

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the exemplary work of Tobi Ojo, an 11th grade student at Grassfield High School in Chesapeake, Virginia, and the high school winner of the Black History Month essay contest I hosted earlier this month. Ms. Ojo wrote a powerful essay on Stacey Abrams' groundbreaking electoral successes and the exceptional work of African-American women across our nation. I am inspired by Ms. Ojo's words, and I encourage young people across our country to reflect on what this month means to them.

Since its creation less than 50 years ago, Black History Month has been a time to honor and reflect upon the remarkable achievements of the African-American community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tobi Ojo's exceptional work in celebration of Black History Month.

February is the month to celebrate black history, accomplishments, and excellence. When thinking of historical figures who embody these ideologies, many individuals would mention Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. If neither of these historical figures is mentioned most people would say another popular African-American man. Black excellence in terms of African-American women is hardly recognized. One African-American lady who has been currently seen breaking societal expectations is politician and lawyer, Stacey Abrams.

Mrs. Abrams broke history by being the first black woman to be a major party nominee for governor in the United States. She was a former liberal State House leader who wanted to change the historically conservative state of Georgia. Her campaign was centered on "the Georgia of tomorrow." Although she is not currently the governor of Georgia, no woman has ever come close to holding that position. Moreover, there has not been a governor position held by a black individual since the Reconstruction Era.

Stacey Abrams is also a successful graduate from Yale Law School. Outside of politics, Mrs. Abrams runs a small business and is a successful writer. Most of her successful books, such as *Minority Leader: Lead From Outside and Our Time Is Now*, center around her struggles and achievements in her life. These books inspire others like Mrs. Abrams to break societal standards set to hinder black lives in America.

Instead of allowing her race and gender to become a hindrance, Mrs. Abrams continues to strive to make a change in the state of Georgia. Georgia has had a history of black representation in small positions but not in statewide positions. Abrams continues to work to improve black communities in Georgia. One of her top priorities is to see more black women leaders in government positions (*The New York Times* 2021).

Stacey Abrams is also a voting rights activist who fights for Americans to have their voice heard through their votes. After seeing the massive mismanagement of Georgia's 2018 election, she decided to combat this problem. This was one of the reasons why she founded the Fair Fight. The Fair Fight helps educate voters on election reforms and advocate for election reform on various government levels. This organization promotes fair